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WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1962
TO WHICH IS APPENDED THE
REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. ANDREW A.G. CARSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Local Health Office,
Church Street,
Wells-next-the-Sea.
Tel: Wells 262.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

A.J. ROGERS, M.R.S.I., H.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
Mill Road,
Wells-next-the-Sea.
Tel: Wells 439.

WELLS-NEXT-TO-THE-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Committee, 1962.

Chairman - Mr. J. Cadamy.

Members - Mr. J. H. Acock.
Mr. L. Cox.
Dr. E. W. Hicks.
Mr. W. E. Richford.
Mr. D. H. Styman.
Mr. C. L. Terrington.
Mr. W. F. Thurgate.
Mr. P. W. Webb.
Mr. J. A. Woollard.

Tells-next-the-Sea Urban District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ended 31st. December 1962.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Public Health of the District for 1962.

As in previous years, the report incorporates that of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

It is noteworthy that the Registrar General's estimated mid year population at 2,450 is the lowest for the past ten years.

The steady rise in illegitimate births continued.

Where infant mortality rates are given, these do not give a true picture because of the small numbers involved.

During the year the new oral type poliomyelitis vaccine was released for general use. The advantage of this type of vaccine is that, in addition to conferring immunity, it also cuts down the carrier rate. With the injection type of vaccine, whilst a person was protected against the disease, he could still be a carrier and thus pass it on to others. The oral vaccine both protects him and stops him being a carrier.

The number of cases of poliomyelitis in England and Wales was lower in 1962 than it has been for nearly half a century. This reflects great credit on family doctors, local authorities and their staff and others concerned. However, constant effort must be maintained to ensure that this high degree of protection is maintained.

I should like to express my thanks to the Committee for their support and to the Staffs of the Public Health Department and the Local Health Office for their help in compilation of this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

ANDREW A.G. CARSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area:- The Urban District covers 2,670 acres.

Population:- The Registrar General's estimated mid year population for 1962 was 2,450. This was 20 less than in 1961 and the lowest figure for the past ten years, as shown in the following table:-

Year	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Estimated mid-year population	2610	2600	2590	2590	2600	2700	2730	2720	2470	2450

The total number of deaths was 30; the number of live births 32, showing a natural increase of births over deaths of 2.

Rateable Value, at 31st. March 1962 was £24,909

Sum represented by a ld.rate - £96.18.ld.

Meteorological Conditions:- the data acquired by courtesy of the R.A.F. West Weynham, is shown in the table below, the figures in brackets being the corresponding data for 1961. The third paragraph of the following table is interesting. With the exception of January, every month was colder than that of the previous year, March being markedly so.

CLIMATIC DATA - 1962.

(figures in brackets are comparable data for 1961)

Month	Mean daily maximum Temp (°F)	Mean daily minimum Temp (°F)	Mean daily temperature (°F)	Total rainfall Inches.	Mean relative humidity.
Jan.	43.2 (41.2)	34.2 (33.4)	38.7 (37.3)	2.02 (4.31)	89.5 (90.75)
Feb.	43.2 (48.2)	34.5 (38.3)	38.9 (43.3)	1.44 (1.57)	83.75 (89.75)
Mar.	42.3 (54.5)	30.0 (37.4)	36.1 (45.9)	1.43 (0.62)	82.0 (80.75)
April.	51.3 (56.8)	38.7 (42.6)	45.0 (49.7)	2.35 (1.85)	81.75 (84.5)
May.	55.6 (57.7)	42.6 (43.2)	49.1 (50.5)	2.50 (1.06)	81.25 (76.25)
June.	64.4 (68.0)	46.8 (48.9)	55.6 (58.5)	0.71 (0.89)	73.25 (72.75)
July.	64.0 (66.2)	49.8 (51.4)	56.9 (58.8)	2.48 (2.59)	82.75 (78.0)
Aug.	65.3 (67.5)	49.8 (51.5)	57.5 (59.3)	3.0 (2.51)	81.75 (81.25)
Sept.	61.5 (66.4)	47.3 (51.8)	54.4 (59.1)	3.77 (2.70)	85.5 (87.25)
Oct.	56.8 (57.7)	44.6 (45.1)	50.7 (51.4)	1.16 (4.82)	89.5 (86.25)
Nov.	45.9 (47.5)	37.0 (38.3)	41.5 (42.9)	2.10 (2.39)	91.75 (88.5)
Dec.	39.9 (40.8)	29.5 (31.8)	34.7 (36.3)	2.63 (3.05)	88.5 (91.75)

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The number of live births registered during the year was 32 of which 2 were illegitimate. There were no stillbirths.

Details of births are given in the following table (figures given in brackets are for 1961).

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Totals
Legitimate	18 (18)	12 (15)	30 (33)
Illegitimate	- (-)	2 (2)	2 (2)
Total	18 (18)	14 (17)	32 (35)

Live Birth Rate.

The crude live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population was 13.06 compared with 14.2 for 1961 and 12.8 for 1960. Using a comparability factor of 1.10 the corrected live birth rate was 14.4 compared with the 1962 rate of 18.0 for England and Wales.

Illegitimate Live Births.

The illegitimate live birth rate is the percentage of total live births and for 1962 was 6.25% compared with 5.7% in 1961 and 2.8% in 1960.

Stillbirths.

There were no stillbirths and therefore the stillbirth rate was zero. The rate for England and Wales in 1962 was 18.2 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.

Infant Deaths.

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 3, one of which was in an illegitimate child. All the infants died in the first week of life.

The causes of the deaths were:-

Prematurity

Hydrocephalus

Haemoperitoneum

Table showing deaths of infants under one year, four weeks and one week of age in 1962.

	Under one year		Under four weeks		Under one week	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Legitimate	2	-	2	-	2	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1	-	1	-
	3	-	3	-	3	-

Infant Mortality Rate.

This is the deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births and for 1962 was 93.7 compared with a rate of 57.1 in 1961.

The rate in 1962 for England and Wales was 21.4.

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate.

This is the deaths of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births and for 1962 was 36.7.

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate.

This is the deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births and for 1962 was 500.

Neonatal Mortality Rate.

This is the deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 total live births and for 1962 was 93.7.

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate.

This is the deaths of infants under one week of age per 1,000 total live births and for 1962 was 93.7.

Perinatal Mortality Rate.

This is the number of stillbirths and deaths of infants under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths and for 1962 was 93.7.

IN CONSIDERING ALL THESE MORTALITY RATES, TRUE COMPARISONS CANNOT BE MADE BECAUSE OF THE SMALL NUMBERS INVOLVED. THIS ONE DEATH MORE OR ONE LESS CAN PRODUCE INDEFINITE FLUCTUATIONS IN THE MORTALITY RATES.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths in the District.

Deaths from all causes.

The Registrar General has recorded the following deaths and they are classified under the thirty six headings based on the abbreviated list of International Statistical Classification of Disease, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1955.

Tuberculosis - respiratory	-
" other	-
Syphilitic disease	-
Diphtheria	-
Whooping cough	-
Meningococcal infections	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-
Measles	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-
" lung, bronchus	-
" breast	-
" uterus	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-
Diabetes	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	3
Coronary disease, angina	6
Hypertension with heart disease	-
Other heart disease	2
Other circulatory disease	-
Influenza	-

(continued over)

Pneumonia	1
Bronchitis	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-
Congenital malformations	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	7
Motor vehicle accidents	2
All other accidents	1
Suicide	1
Homicide and operations of war	-

The total number of deaths in the Wells District in 1962 was 30.

Heart disease, with 8 deaths, heads the list and caused 26.7% of all deaths. Coronary artery disease caused 6 of these deaths giving a figure of 20% of all deaths while vascular lesions of the nervous system, with 3 deaths, was responsible for 10% of the total number of deaths.

If all deaths due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system (which includes vascular lesions of the nervous system) are combined a figure of 11 deaths is arrived at, or 36.7% of all deaths.

Cancer caused 4 deaths or 13.3% of all deaths. There were no deaths due to cancer of the lung and bronchus.

Death rate (crude) per 1,000 estimated population	12.2
Death rate (corrected; comparability factor of 0.84) per 1,000 estimated population	10.2
Death rate England and Wales per 1,000 estimated population	11.9

NO. UNICABLE DISEASES.

One case of infective hepatitis, two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and three cases of measles were notified in 1962. In 1960 and 1961 there were no notifications!

This low number of cases is remarkable as Wells, with its beach and holiday attractions and a large Secondary Modern school, is a centre for many activities.

POLIOMYELITIS.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis in 1962.

Early in the year, the new type oral poliomyelitis vaccine was released for use. Commencing on the 1st. March special clinics were held in the evening in the District. In Area 8, comprising Walsingham and Lockington Rural Districts and Hunstanton and Wells Urban Districts, 3,445 persons received protection against poliomyelitis; 1,599 were persons who had previously not been vaccinated.

Thanks are due to the Staff of the Local Health Office who gave clerical assistance at the clinics, to the nurses who assisted the doctors and to the British Red Cross who helped generally and kept the clinics operating smoothly.

The following table shows the number of persons immunised against poliomyelitis in 1962 in Area 8 (comprising Walsingham and Lockington Rural Districts and Hunstanton and Wells Urban Districts) and in Wells District.

Age Groups.	Area 8.	Wells U.D.
Pre-school children (born 1957-62)	2,139	141
School children (born 1944-56)	6,581	436
Adolescents (born 1934-43)	2,996	188
Adults (born 1923 - 33)	2,465	164
Adults (born 1922 or before)	590	44
Total	14,891	973

SMALLPOX.

The District was clear of smallpox in 1962.

The following table shows the number of vaccinations against smallpox by age groups up to and including 15 years carried out in the District in 1962. Figures in brackets are the corresponding numbers for 1961.

	Under one year	One year	2 - 4 years	5-14 years	15+	Total
Primary	15 (15)	5 (2)	6 (4)	64 (4)	77 (1)	171 (26)
Re-vacc.	- (-)	- (-)	1 (-)	46 (-)	102 (1)	148 (1)
Totals	15 (15)	5 (2)	7 (4)	110 (4)	179 (2)	319 (27)

TUBERCULOSIS.

Two new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and there was an inward transfer of a case of pulmonary tuberculosis from another District.

As at 31st. December 1962, there were 11 cases on the register.

Tuberculosis in Wells District 1962.

(Figures in brackets are those for 1961)

At 31.12.62.	Males	Females	Totals
Pulmonary	6 (7)	4 (2)	10 (9)
Non-pulmonary	- (-)	1 (1)	1 (1)
Totals	6 (7)	5 (3)	11 (10)

While it is true that tuberculosis does not present the problem that it did in former years it is still present in the community and constant vigilance is needed to see that it is kept under control. How easily it can spread is shown by the following report from the daily press recently. Out of 400 pupils at a grammar school in the Midlands, 27 were found to have tuberculosis. The cause of the outbreak was traced to one pupil who was apparently in good health but who was found to be suffering from a "serious form of the disease".

When children reach 13 years of age they are offered B.C.G. vaccination where necessary, through the School Health Service. Of the 94 children who were offered B.C.G. vaccination, only 74 were tested and read for immunity.

The following table gives more information of B.C.G. vaccination in Wells District in 1962.

Wells Secondary Modern School.

(Figures in brackets are those for 1961)

No. due.	No. accepted.	Tested.	Read.	Positive.	Negative and Vacc.	Tuberculin Index %
94(114)	80 (85)	73 (74)	74 (62)	13 (15)	59 (66)	17.5 (17.8)

The tuberculin index, which gives an indication of the degree of infectivity in the District was 17.5 compared with a figure last year of 17.8. The tuberculin index does not necessarily indicate tuberculosis disease, as the resistance of the great majority is sufficient to overcome the invading tubercle bacteria; it does, however, indicate the degree of opportunity for invasion and is thus a useful index of infectious cases in this community.

Mass Radiography Unit.

In April, the Mass Radiography Unit visited Wells. In all 694 males and 400 females (totalling 1,132 persons) were X-rayed, 503 of these attending for the first time. This was the highest attendance ever attained in the town and the surrounding area. Four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were found. One required close clinical supervision, one required observation at the Chest Clinic and two were healed lesions.

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS.

There were no cases of either diphtheria, whooping cough or tetanus in the District in 1962.

Immunisation against these three diseases is usually commenced in infancy when the child is about three months old. It is mainly given as 'Triple Antigen' thus reducing the number of injections a child needs. The antigens given, combined in a single vaccine, give a greater protection to each disease than they would if given separately.

The following table gives more information about immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus in Area C, which comprises Walsingham and Bockin Rural Districts and Hunstanton and Wells Urban Districts; and in the Wells Urban District in 1962.

	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957-58	1956-57	1955-56	1954-55	1947 +	Total
	Area 3 Wells	Area 3 Wells	Area 3 Wells	Area 3 Wells	Area 3 Wells	Area 3 Wells	Area 3 Wells	Area 3 Wells	Area 3 Wells	Area 3 Wells	Area 3 Wells
TRIPLI	146	7	252	12	22	2	2	3	1	2	431
	-	-	3	-	25	-	-	13	5	1	35
	4	-	5	1	1	-	-	2	69	14	95
DIPHTHERIA/TETANUS	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	-	12	133
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	12
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	286	19	622
TETANUS.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	412	51	1083
	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	283	153
	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	20	13	83

I = Initial Course (3 injections)

II = 'Booster' dose.

OF DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IN RELATIONS TO AREA 3 AND WELLS URBAN DISTRICT IN 1962.

R E P O R T

of the

SUPERIOR and PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

INSPECTIONS.

The following inspections were carried out during the year.

Housing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40.
Housing repairs and alterations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	400.
Slaughter houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	276.
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22.
Pests Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	600.
Factories and Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	221.

HOUSING.

Slum Clearance.

Two contracts for the demolition of thirty-eight dwellings were completed during the year. An area of almost two acres has been cleared and is available for re-development. The re-housing of occupiers of the unfit dwellings was completed on 10th. December, 1961.

Twenty-four specialist Old Age Pensioners dwellings are being erected on the north side of the Mill Road houses and it is anticipated that these dwellings will provide accommodation for the people from the second stage of the slum clearance area.

In order to obtain the maximum benefit of the existing dwellings it is proposed that tenants from under occupied houses will be re-housed in the new bungalows and make available family sized houses for families living in the next stage of the clearance area.

Individual Unit Houses.

During the year the Medical Officer of Health made Official Representations in respect of four separate dwellings with the following results:-

Demolition orders made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Closing orders in lieu of demolition orders	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.
Remaining to be determined	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.

Improvements to Council Houses.

During the year a Contract in relation to the modernisation of ninety Pre-War Council Houses was complete and these houses now have all basic modern conveniences.

Improvements to Privately Owned Houses.

Standard Grants and Discretionary Grants have been made as shown in the following table but in no case has a grant been applied for in respect of any tenanted houses.

Standard Grants.

Applications received	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.
Applications approved	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.
Value of grants approved	..	..	..	..	..	..	£610.0.0d.
Value of grants paid	..	..	..	..	..	..	£504.0.0d.

Discretionary Grants.

Applications received	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.
Applications approved	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.
Value of grants approved	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,594.
Value of grants paid	..	..	..	..	..	..	£504.

Private Enterorise Building.

During the year proposals for five new dwellings were submitted and one was completed. This brings the private enterorise post-war building to forty dwellings. In the same period the Council has built one hundred and seventy eight houses.

Water Supply.

A copy of the analysts report on the Public Supply is given below.

TABLE SHOWING RESULTS OF ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.

Source of Sample and Date	Wells U. .C. Public Supply 'Fourwinds', Burnt Street, Wells. 4.9.62.
Appearance	Clear
Nature of Deposit	Nil
Colour	Nil
Reaction	Neutral
Taste	Satisfactory
Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.02
Albuminoid nitrogen	negligible trace
Nitrate nitrogen	0.5
Nitrite nitrogen	nil
Chlorine as Chlorides	60
Oxygen absorbed	0.20

Opinion:- This water is of very good organic quality and the chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution. Its bacteriological condition is satisfactory. The total hardness amounts to about 20° Clark, of which 15° is temporary. The reaction of the water is on alkaline side of neutrality, and corrosive action on metals is not to be expected. Metals were in fact absent from the sample apart from a trace of iron.

The supply of water is now permanently on tap from Walsingham Rural District Council but due to the developments in the distribution system it was necessary, during the summer period of peak demand, to prohibit the use of garden hose pipes and the use of hose pipes on private cars.

New connections to mains in year 15
 Number of domestic premises drawing water from mains .. 993
 Number of domestic premises not drawing from mains .. 3
 Number of domestic premises drawing water from stand taps 31
SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewage disposal works functioned satisfactorily during the year except for sludge drying.

Wet sludge is removed from the sewage works by tanker and deposited in a disused lime pit adjoining the sewage works. There is continued subsidence of the filter beds at the sewage works with consequent cracking of the filter bed walls which will require considerable remedial treatment during the next two years.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION.

During the year the cesspool emptier with a night soil attachment was acquired and night soil is now collected by this vehicle.

At the end of the year thirty-one houses were still served by bucket lavatories but during the year eleven conversions to water closets were carried out, of which the Council paid grants totalling £217. 0. 5d.

It is the Council's policy to eliminate all bucket lavatories, except in the clearance area which will be dealt with when the houses are demolished.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk supplied in the District is processed outside the District, and is sold by three dairymen and from a number of shops in the town.

FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

The following premises are registered for the purposes indicated.

Storage and sale of ice cream	..	..	..	..	..	17.
Fish and Chip shops	..	..	..	..	..	3.
Sausages and Potted Meats	..	..	..	..	..	4.
Boiling of Shellfish	..	..	..	..	..	4.

Total						28.

RODENT CONTROL.

Rodent control is carried out by the sewage works Attendant, visits and treatments are summarised in the following table.

Local Authority premises		Dwellings	Others
Inspections	147	406	47
Treatments	14	127	Nil

REFUSE COLLECTIONS AND DISPOSALS.

Refuse is collected in a 7 c.yd. shuttered body vehicle, and is deposited in an old lime pit. The pit is inadequately fenced and some nuisance is caused by the promiscuous dumping of refuse by trespassers. The pit is continuously being treated for rodents and consequently no serious problems of infestation arises except in the autumn when rodents come into the pit for winter housing.

CARAVAN SITES.

The Council operates a holiday caravan and camping site which is becoming increasingly popular. Additional sanitary accommodation was provided during this year and it is anticipated that the bucket lavatories provided will be converted to water closets for the next season.

The site is low lying and difficulties occur after severe rain, with the drainage of the land.

The Council proposes, after completion of current negotiations for a new lease, to bring the caravan site and camping to the best possible standards, providing all facilities as required by current legislation.

PORT HEALTH FACILITY.

The following ships entered the port during the year.

Ships from	Arrivals		Departures	
	Full	Empty	Full	Empty.
Ex- Foreign Ports	20	1	9	12
Ex- Home Ports	4	6	-	10

The thirty-one ships entering the port had a nett register of 3,604 tons,

It is interesting to note that thirty-one ships entered the port in 1962 compared with twenty in 1961.

Twenty-one left for foreign ports in 1962 compared with eighteen in 1961.

There were no serious sanitary defects noted in these ships.

A number of small fishing craft operate from the port.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

Only one slaughter house now operates in this district and the following is a summary of the animals slaughtered and inspected.

Animals slaughtered.

	Bullocks.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
Slaughtered	161	-	276	269	726
Inspected	174	-	258	261	693

Unsound meat seized or surrendered.

All diseases except Tuberculosis.

	Bullocks.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Whole carcasses seized	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcasses from which some part was condemned	7	-	3	6
Percentage	4.02%	-	1.1%	2.3%

tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned	bullocks	Calves	sheep	Pigs
carcasses of which some part was condemned	-	-	-	3
Percentage	-	-	-	1.14%

Cysticercus Bovis.

Percentage of Animals killed which were inspected.	96%	-	93%	97%
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UN SOUND FOOD.

The following were surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

Weight in lbs.	Food.	Cause of unfitness
40 lbs.	Pork	Bruising.
30 lbs.	Pigs heads and tongues	L.T. and submaxillary gland.
30 lbs.	Sheep and all organs	Septic pericarditis.
14 lbs.	Beasts head and tongue	Abscesses.
20 lbs.	Beasts' liver	Cystometosis.
15 lbs.	Liver	Abscesses.
20 lbs.	Various canned pork	Loss of vacuum. Containers damaged.
96 lbs.	Imported peaches.	Mould and decomposition.
20 lbs.	Sundry offals	Abscesses.

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959.

Annual report for 1962 under Section 12(3) of the Factories Act, 1937.

Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector.)

Premises.	Number of Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	4	Nil	Nil
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Out-workers' premises)	19	7	-	-
Total	39	11	-	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

N I L.

